



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2004

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CITY ATTORNEY SEEKS TO STOP STREET VIOLENCE, GANG INJUNCTION EXPANSION GRANTED BY COURT

*Lincoln Park and Valencia Park are in Expanded Target area
Joint News Conference with Councilman Lewis, Police Chief & City Attorney*

San Diego, CA: Drive-by-shootings, narcotic trafficking, assaults and robberies are gang related crimes that are, again, escalating in the communities of Lincoln Park and Valencia Park in the City of San Diego. But an existing gang injunction, which was recently modified by San Diego Superior Judge Michael Bollman, may help reduce the neighborhood violence. City Attorney Casey Gwinn says the civil gang injunction prohibits certain documented gang members from openly associating in the communities of Lincoln Park and Valencia Park and prevents them from engaging in 37 different criminal and nuisance activities that are creating a public nuisance in these neighborhoods.

“This continuing reign of violence and fear has robbed residents in the Lincoln Park and Valencia Park communities of their sense of peace, safety and security,” said City Attorney Gwinn. “We will do whatever it takes to save lives and restore neighborhoods.”

The modification of the injunction was announced today at Kennedy Park in the Lincoln Park community at a joint news conference held by San Diego City Councilman Charles Lewis, San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne and City Attorney Gwinn. Kennedy Park is one of nineteen “Prohibited Target Locations” in the gang abatement target area that are off limits to gang defendants. The modified permanent injunction was originally granted on April 12, 1999.

According to Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond, the court’s latest action adds 21 new and active documented gang members as named defendants and subjects them to the original provisions of the 1999 injunction. In addition, nine gang members were removed from the original injunction because they are no longer actively involved in the gang, or have had no police contact in the past five years. Three of the nine are inactive because they are in prison, serving life sentences. The original injunction barred 23 documented Lincoln Park gang members from publicly associating with each other in the targeted community as one of the 37 conditions.

The modified injunction also expands the “Prohibited Target Locations” in the Lincoln Park community: Willie Henderson Park, Martin L. King Park, the Park Crest Apartment complex and the intersection of 45th Street and Logan Street. The target area also adds an area of the Valencia Park community.

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The defendants in the modified injunction are also prohibited from carrying weapons; using, possessing or selling drugs; drinking alcohol, gambling or wearing gang clothing in public; and most importantly, associating together in public in the targeted area. Also, a unique provision in the injunction requires gang defendants to be employed, stay in school or obtain a trade. The purpose of the provision is to prevent future nuisance activity by requiring gang members to use their time in a lawful manner. A violation of any provision of the modified permanent injunction is a misdemeanor.

Prosecutors in the Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) handled the case. DART prosecutors work in partnership with the San Diego Police Department and the City's Neighborhood Code Compliance Department to stop criminal or nuisance activity on properties that attract drug sales, prostitution, gang or other illegal behavior. For more information about DART's proactive work in the community, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, click Neighborhood Solutions/Code Enforcement Unit.

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